The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and authentic interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Samuel Gompers said:

You cannot weigh a human soul in the same scales with a piece of pork. You cannot weigh the heart and soul of a child with the same scales upon which you weigh any commodity.

WHOLE NO. 2032 — WILLIAM GREEN, *President* — WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 1950 — GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* — VOL. 40, NO. 12

House Members Asked To Vote Cooperative Bill

Washington.—AFL President William Green appealed to President Truman and members of the House to throw all their support and votes behind passage of the bill to provide cooperative housing for middle-income families.

In his letter to members of the House, Mr. Green said:

"The only way the housing needs of this middle-income group can be met without an outright government subsidy is through a cooperative housing program. In order for cooperative housing projects to get underway, they will need proper private financing.

"The bill provides this, without any increase in the public debt, by allowing private funds to purchase certain government-backed debentures. The proceeds from the sale of these debentures would in turn be loaned to cooperatives.

"Strict requirements have been included covering allowances for reserves and administration. The cooperative housing project will be a sound business enterprises. Ample safeguards against speculation are also in the bill."

Mr. Green's personal appeal to the President and House members came on the eve of House debate on the measure, a few days after the Senate voted by a narrow 45-39 margin against the cooperative provision.

A victory in the House would give the Truman administration a second chance of getting the co-op housing measure supported by the AFL enacted into law by the Senate.

"If that happens, we will fight it out and win in the Senate," Senator John J. Sparkman of Alabama, sponsor of the bill in the Senate, said.

The co-op housing legislation would make possible construction of apartments and houses like those now rented for a month at a cost of only $85—a price workers can afford.

M.D. Hits AMA

Bad Axe, Mich.—Dr. Ira D. McCoy calls the American Medical Association "dictatorial" in opposing the annual fee to fight President Truman's health insurance program, which is supported by the AFL.

Dr. McCoy, a former chairman of the program, was born on a farm near Emleton, Pa., graduated from Grove City, Pa., College and University of Michigan Medical School. He has taken further work at Harvard University and the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn. He was a captain in the Army Medical Corps.

California Calls LLPE Conference

San Francisco.—C. J. Haggerty, secretary of the California Labor League for Political Education, reminded all unionists that the closing date for registration for the primary elections of 1950 is April 10.

Haggerty said that if the voice of labor is to be heard at the polls, every union man and woman in California must be registered.

The California Labor League for Political Education will hold its preprimary endorsement convention in San Francisco April 17, 18 and 19.

Haggerty also recommended that all AFL unionists make their $2 voluntary contributions to the national LLPE in addition to April 10 for funds to be used in the California primaries.

Voluntary contributions should be made by unionists to their respective international, which, in turn, has the funds with the national LLPE in Washington, D. C. Only the contributions from unions of a particular state can be returned to the state LLPE for use in the state campaign.

Are you listening to Frank Edwards?

HOLC Turns Profit With End in Sight

Philadelphia.—The Home Owners Loan Corporation, created in 1933 as a New Deal measure to help the nation's hard-pressed home owners to stave off financial disaster, has turned a profit and may dispose of the last of its outstanding loans by June 30, 1951.

The HOLC position was revealed by William Divers, chairman of the Home Loan Bank Board, which has directed HOLC since its establishment.

About $176,000,000 worth of HOLC loans are being transferred from government hands as the result of repeal of mortgage balances completed in recent months by the Home Owners Loan Corporation.

The deals closed cover all of the 81,000 remaining mortgages of the corporation located in New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Michigan, New Jersey, Mississippi, Arkansas, Colorado and West Virginia.

During the next 6 months, the corporation expects to invite state-by-state bids for the purchase of its entire mortgage portfolios in 7 other states: Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky and Iowa, the report said. On December 31, these holdings embraced about 49,700 mortgages represented by a dollar balance of $68,200,000.

The program contemplates that, as a result of the state-wide sales, approximately 70,000 loans can be marketed and delivered during the fiscal year ending June 30.

During the year just past, the operations of HOLC emerged from the red ink and on December 31 the corporation held a surplus of $8,500,000, Divers said. He reported that the corporation will try to dispose of the last of its outstanding loans by June 30, 1951.

WOULD RAISE PAY

Washington.—Unemployment compensation benefits here would be increased under a bill introduced in the Senate by Senator Matthew Neely at the request of the Central Labor Union (AFL). The bill would increase the present benefits, now ranging from $6 to $20 a week for 20 weeks to $8 to $30 a week for 26 weeks.

The reserve fund built up by a tax paid by employers has now reached about $45 millions.

GREEN NAMED

Washington.—Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin has named AFL President William Green to serve as chairman of the Loyalty Day Parade Committee in sponsoring parades on the April 29-30 weekend to combat Communist May Day demonstrations on May 1. Cities expected to stage Loyalty Day Parades include New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Jersey City, Buffalo, Trenton and Miami.

GOMPERS STAMPS SOLD

Knoxville.—The initial supply of 35,000 Gompers memorial postage stamps is exhausted so strong has been the demand. A new issue has been requested, which would be the third allotment for Knoxville.

CITY BUILDING HIGH

Washington.—City building activity, led by a large volume of residential construction, was greater in 1949 than in any year since the mid-1920s.

Doctor Raps AMA; Shows Health Need

By IRA DEAN McCOY, M.D.
(First of two articles)

Washington.—The American Medical Association, at enormous cost, has bombarded the American public with a flag-waving, red, white and blues propaganda leaflet "explaining" the proposed federal health insurance legislation.

Every member of the AMA was assessed $25 in order that one of the nation's top publicity agencies might be employed to tell the American public why it is unfruitfully calling the proposed legislation socialism, statism and paternalism.

Often in the heat of argument or in criticizing another's beliefs, the words "paternalism" and "statism" are too deliberately used and the users forget or lose sight of exactly the forms of statism and paternalism.

The government is composed of men who ourselves whom the majority of us elect to govern us and it is always within our power to control the general completion of our national government every time we exercise our choice. Far, far more dangerous to the welfare of our country than statism or paternalism is our apathy toward our responsibilities as citizens. It is everyone's duty to be actively inquisitive and interested in government and it is the sacred privileges as well as our duty to participate in the secret ballot at every opportunity. The greatest asset the American people or people become in government, the better the government becomes and the safer will be our liberties.

Let us examine the system of free enterprise and our capitalistic way of life. In this complex nation that some of ours, government simply must step in to protect more than just the right of our people to a greater extent in the future.

If the handling of atomic energy is too complex a task for the electronic industry, certainly the health and education of our people is too great and pressing a problem to be allowed to drift much longer. There can be no solution but more and more government aid and control. After all, isn't good government, "One for all and all for one?" But let's get back to federal health insurance.

Over 300,000 of our people, men, women and children, will die this year because they cannot afford medical care. That isn't all the sad truth: Each year, too, America will lose 3,000,000 man-years of work because of ill health and disease. Likewise, the $27,000,000,000 in national wealth will be lost—not because of sickness or disability.

Only the basis of selective-service experience at least 40-percent of our men of military age—between 8,000,000 and 9,000,000 men—are unfit for military service by any standard. At least 7,000,000 people in the United States suffer mental illness. As many as 23,000,000 persons have a chronic or disabling disease. Sickness and accidents cost the nation at least $8,000,000,000 a year.

Our health services and facilities are not adequate. Forty percent of our counties do not have even a full-time local public health officer. Hospitals are needed—areas of our country with an aggregate popula-

tion of 15,000,000 people do not have a single recognized general hospital. Rural areas, in fact, have a shortage of dentists, psychiatrists, and other trained health personnel as a great that many persons are forced to forego medical care. In 1944, 583 counties had less than one active physician per 1,000 population, the latest year. And numerous counties had no active physician at all.

If we had adequate services available for maternity cases, we could prevent at least half of the deaths of mothers who die in childbirth, and one-third of the deaths of young babies. Under the health agencies have, on their waiting lists, thousands of crippled children who require and cannot get proper attention because there is a lack of facilities and personnel, and over half a million children with impaired vision fail to receive good medical care.

Staggering statistics, aren't they? But more shocking is the simple fact that we have the means to prevent these needless deaths and this needless suffering. We have highly trained personnel capable of applying that knowledge. The one essential ingredient lacking is the assurance of adequate facilities and knowledge can have it when they need it.

But before we project the solution, let's look more searchingly at the problem. Can the average American family pay for modern medical care? Let's see.

At least two out of every three American families—some 20,000,000 people—cannot, and this figure comes from Marion Folsom, of the Research Association's Bureau of Medical Economic Research. He says that the annual income of $3,000 or less per year for a family of four persons just cannot afford adequate medical care.

Most Americans avoid seeking preventive medical care for the simple sign of complaint. They tend to put off going to a doctor as long as they that the pain or illness will right itself, but they don't have the money of fear of medical costs.

Such delay is often serious, and sometimes fatal, as in tuberculosis and cancer. We doctors know that 30 percent of cancer is curable if found in its very early stages. We know that the disabling effects of many other chronic diseases can be halted or even prevented entirely, if found in time.

There is an endless amount of data to be compiled, but the time, money and life—between wealth and health—is short and costly.

The problem, from which we can no longer run, is to find out how can we remove this major economic barrier to health and provide care for the nation and assure everyone regardless of economic status, of the best medical solution? In National health insurance is the solution. Under a system of compulsory social security program with health insurance, by utilizing the proven principle of spreading the cost deductions to which employers and employees would contribute a share of the costs of physicians and hospital care, we can provide for the outstanding built availability of care to all who need it and make full payment to doctors, hospitals and others who render the service.

For a long time the AMA fought the old-age and survivors insurance plans. It still fights them today, unless it can have its way in forcing industrial health insurance today, in a "trusted" relationship with the doctor, instead of social insurance. The AMA is dominated by medical societies provide for the payment of services.

2. Voluntary plans have no eligibility basis of paying for medical services. They charge a flat rate, usually high, for a limited number of services, and a fraction of the population is included in the plan. They are based broader their benefits without pricing themselves out of use by the low-income groups.

3. Many of them offer only cash payments instead of actual medical services, and these payments cover only part of the cost of care.

4. They have the smallest coverage for the lowest income groups in rural areas and among lower income groups.

POSTAL CLERKS DOUBLE MEMBERS

Washington.—The AFL National Federation of Post Office Clerks reported that its membership has more than doubled since 1945.

The report was made by President Leo E. Rover to the union's news service. It showed a graph beginning in 1906 with 583 members in 8 locals. By 1946 there were 2,750 locals and 51,439 members and as of December 31, 1949, there were 4,549 locals and 89,839 members.

BACK MERGER

Pittsburgh.—The Pittsburgh AFL Central Labor Union endorsed the proposal to merge the Community Chest and the Health and Welfare Federation.

Retires

HERMAN WINTER

Miami, Fla.—Herman Winter, 11th AFL delegate elected as general president of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers. He was made president emeritus for life and Secretary-Treasurer William F. Schnitzler was named to the presidency.

Herman Winter, Bakery Workers Chief, Retires

Miami, Fla.—Herman Winter, president of the AFL Bakery and Confectionery Workers International Union, has retired. So announced the international executive board meeting at the conclusion of its 49th session.

Winter, 11th delegate to the AFL convention in the labor movement and in the baking industry, rounded out his rising to the top position in his international union by a plum on the executive council of the American Federation of Labor. In the resignation of his service, the general executive board voted him with the title of president emeritus for life.

The unanimous action was unanimously selected General Secretary-Treasurer William F. Schnitzler for the office of president. In assuming that office, Mr. Schnitzler becomes the third president of the international union since the post was created in the 1941 convention of the organization.

Assistant General Secretary-Treasurer James G. Cross was unanimously selected to fill the post of general secretary-treasurer left vacant following the advancement of Mr. Schnitzler to the presidency. Mr. Cross has served the international union in his duties as general secretary-treasurer, delegate to AFL convention delegate, and as assistant general secretary-treasurer.

AFL Teamsters Gain Broad Welfare Plan

Chicago.—The largest and most comprehensive employer-financed welfare program ever written in the trucking industry was signed March 5 by the Central States Drivers Council and the Southern Conference of Teamsters. The Union Casualty Co. of New York will underwrite and operate the health and hospital aspects of the contract. The United States Casualty Co. will take care of the life insurance portion of the contract. Both companies have an A+ rating.

More than 30,000 drivers in 18 states will participate in the program. Benefits include hospitalization, accident, hospital, surgical and life benefits. Plans are presently underway to incorporate on a gradual basis the welfare fund membership of the Central States Drivers Council until more than 100,000 teamsters receive coverage.

The total annual premium on the initial contract will exceed $1,500,000 but the premium will be paid in full entirely by employers at $1 per week per driver. This fund will be administered by the Central States Drivers Council.

Bids to underwrite the policy were asked by all of the most outstanding carriers in the country by the Central States and other teamster organization, study and analysis the contract was written by the Union Casualty and the United States Insurance Co.

The health and accident portion of the contract, which is a group agreement, was signed by A. F. Hudson, executive secretary of the Central States Drivers Council and William Lee, president of the Southern Conference of Teamsters and executive vice president of the Union Casualty Co. Considered the broadest ever written in the trucking industry, it is anticipated that the contract will serve as a pattern for over 400,000 teamsters in this country.

Earlier in the week, teamsters employed in the liquor distribution field received similar life insurance, disability benefits, hospitalization and surgical aid at an estimated expenditure of $50,000 annually. This, together with the Central States Drivers contract is a considerable step forward in the campaign of the teamsters to achieve welfare benefits for an estimated million members across the country.

Organizers Summoned To Map Member Drive

Washington.—AFL President William Green stepped up the drive to organize 1,000,000 new members in 1950 as a memorial to Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the American Federation of Labor.

Mr. Green summoned all AFL organizers to Washington for a 3-day conference, March 24 and 25, to map an assault on all fronts to reach the 1,000,000 member goal set in honor of the centennial of the birth of Gompers.

Mr. Green said in a letter to each organizer:

"In order to formulate policies and plans and to take steps to make these policies and plans effective, it becomes necessary to hold a conference of the organizing force and staff of the AFL.

"The formulation of plans and policies having for their purpose the organization of one million new members in 1950 will be the primary and principal purpose of the conference.

"Because of the importance of this conference, I urge you to be present."

Scheduled to address the organizers are Mr. Green, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, Harry O'Reilly, director of organization, and Joseph Keenan, director of Labor's League for Political Education.

The Gompers Centennial Organizing Conference will open the 1949 convention in St. Paul.

Regional and metropolitan state-wide rallies have been held thus far by the AFL unions and state labor bodies throughout the south, New England, the Pacific northwest and middle west. More are scheduled.

Mr. O'Reilly reported that the rallies have been uniformly successful with unionists enthusiastically signing new members for the AFL.

SIGN OF SPRING

Washington.—"What do I have to do to be a baseball coach when I grow up?"

If your son asks you this question, you can answer after reading a publication just released by the Office of Education, Federal Security Agency, titled "State Certification Requirements for Secondary School Teachers of Health Education, Physical Education, and for Athletic Coaches."

Defeat Virginia, Fight Mississippi Anti-Labor Laws

Washington.—Labor's League for Political Education reported that so far labor is holding its own in 1950 state legislatures in preventing passage of "right-to-work" laws.

State legislatures quit passing these acts after the AFL moved to step into politics.

Virginia's legislature just adjourned after several weeks of wrangling. The AFL-backed unions put their money's worth from LLPE. They won a victory in political activity in the last 2 years, the first session of the new legislature in the legislature for once. Of course, success in Virginia is measured not by what you get, but what you prevent the Byrd machine from doing to you.

The machine sought passage of an antilabor bill that would bare decertification of unions in the state. But the machine lost, 44-42. It put Lieutenant Governor J. Lindsay Almond, state federation officers got an amendment tacked on that nullifies the act.

Biggest surprise to Virginia AFL leaders was the large number of legislators who voted with labor who previously had voted against labor. Evidently they had learned to recognize labor's power in the primary labor's votes.

The Mississippi legislature still has before it 3 little Taft-Hartley bills backed by the Mississippi Economic Council, a front for union-busting employers. One of the measures makes anything but an "open shop" illegal. It also would outlaw secondary boycotts and jurisdictional strike. And the last would outlaw the closed shop than two pickets within 50 feet of a struck plant.

With elections coming up and new registration necessary, the Mississippi legislature probably will follow the Virginia legislature.

Pension Drive Helps Security

By WILLIAM GREEN
President American Federation of Labor

(As told to Philip Pearl, AFL public relations director, which is to be broadcast at 10:45 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.)

Washington.—Because of the inadequacies of the present social security system, labor and progressive employers have been under pressure from their workers to establish private pension plans. So now if the government increases social security benefits, it will save these corporations money. They will be able to reduce the payments in their own retirement funds.

This same situation has served to remove a great deal of opposition on the part of big business to the improvement of the social security law. That was shown by the recent Congressional vote in favor of better social security law in the House of Representatives last October.

But there is still some die-hard opposition from reactionaries who regard any improvement of social security as a step toward "the welfare state." They say that the welfare people will lose their freedom if they rely upon the government for adequate social security benefits. That is the same kind of reasoning discredited; it is 100 percent wrong. Real security does not take away the freedom of the people instead of detracting from it.

More people must be covered by the program. The benefits should be substantially increased. Temporary disability insurance should be added to the program. Benefits should be based on earnings up to $100 a week instead of the present limitation of about $70.

By establishing a sound social security system in America, we can provide the strongest possible insurance for the American way of life.

Remember Gompers. Buy stamps!

Harrison Predicts Reds Will Fail To Block Arms

Washington.—AFL Vice President George M. Harrison predicted that "the scheme of the Communists to sabotage shipments of American arms and munitions to the countries of Western Europe—and to Soviet Russia will not succeed."

Mr. Harrison made the prediction in a statement for the Voice of America for broadcast to Europe.

President of the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Mr. Harrison made the broadcast in connection with the Communist attempt to get dockers in the Atlantic Pact nations to refuse to load arms and to unload military equipment shipped to these nations under the American military aid program.

Mr. Harrison said:

"The reason the Communist-controlled Soviet Russia and its satellite Unions wants to keep your nations from getting the arms they need is that it is to the workers of the United States, and to the reason in the world, that wants your factories and the food from your land.

"The Kremlin is forging chains for your necks and wants you to have the weapons to fight back. They want to alter the course of your history by plan to enslave. If you have the weapons to defend yourselves, you have urged the United States government to send you those weapons. They will convince Russia you will not be her slaves. They will convince her that freedom will be safe and the products of your factories and your farms will be yours to enjoy.

"Marshall Aid has helped you rebuild your war damaged factories and your farms and has enabled you to produce more than you need. Aid from you from the United States by agreement with your governments will make you strong—strong enough to cause Russia to alter her course—strong enough to start your own democratic revolution—strong enough to remain free men as you have always been free men.

"As members of the International Transport Workers Federation, the railway workers of America are in the best position to establish private trade with the Kremlin, the World Federation of Labor has no contact with the secret agency for that small group of evil men. Their efforts to help you remain free do not stop there, for we are a part of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and wholeheartedly supported the program of resistance to the Communists' evil designs."

Auxiliaries Call Convention May 4

Washington.—The American Federation of Women's Auxiliaries of Labor will hold its annual convention in Miami, Fla., May 4 to 6 inclusive.

The convention call was issued by Mrs. Mary Lowe, president, and Mrs. John M. Baer, secretary. The convention will be held at the Miami at the Warbinton Hotel, 20th and Collins Ave.

Mrs. Lowe said:

"The convention will remain in session May 5 and 6. May 6 will be the opening day of the fifth AFL Union Industries Show and this will give the delegates to the convention an unusual opportunity to see this labor-management exhibition where officials and members of women's auxiliaries can view all that is now in union label products and union service."

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, *President*

WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1950

GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Real Estate Lobby Knocks Out Homes For Union Members

Washington.—The real estate lobby, working through the alliance of reactionary Republicans and Dixiecrats, killed off cooperative housing for middle-income families—but hoped by this Congress for decent housing for union members.

The final defeat, on March 22, came after the labor, veteran and other liberal groups drew within 3 votes of winning a compromise aimed at establishing the cooperative housing principle in law.

Veteran congressional observers said that if the compromise to fix the interest rate at just less than 3 percent had carried, they believed the middle income cooperative provision would have been kept in the measure.

The House vote came on this same date as the nation's basic appeal from President Truman, acting on the suggestion of AFL President William Green.

AFL state federations, central labor and local unions, and individual AFL members helped the cause by writing their congressmen to vote for the middle-income provision.

But after the compromise interest rate lost 126 to 115, the middle-income feature was stricken 218-156, and the bill passed finally, 261 to 10.

Only a new House of Representatives and Senate, with the liberal members increased through victory at the labor-backed ballot box in November, can be counted on to provide the housing which union members are going to need for a good many years to come.

A Housing Act of 1950 is certain, however, since both Senate and House have passed bills but without the middle income section.

The final law expected from conference will probably follow most provisions of the House bill. These would make credit easier for veterans, colleges and for Federal Housing Administration loans.

Rent Lids Blow By May 15 Maybe As Funds Are Cut

Washington.—Rent lids may blow off completely by May 15.

And when they do, the average rise has been around 20 percent. Over 40 percent some places.

The guys who let your rent rise, if the lids go off in less than 60 days, are members of Congress.

The Senate on a voice vote—no record kept for checklists, by the way—killed deficiency appropriations bills, which had been previously passed by the House, providing funds to enforce rent controls there after June 30, the little mid-May.

Of the total of $758,000,000 in the deficiency bill, covering the needs of many agencies, only $2,000,000 was provided for enforcement of present rent regulations which do not expire until June 30. The Housing Expediter, Tighe E. Woods, asked for $15,000,000. Spokesmen for the expediter say this sum would be insufficient for full enforcement.

Another $2,600,000 is provided for the housing expediter, but is earmarked specifically for payment of terminal leave pay. Advocates of a further one-year extension of rent control assert that this provision marks an effort to kill off regulations.

Bills for extension of rent controls are pending before both House and Senate, but hearings are not expected to begin before mid-April. Members of Congress from the big cities have asked that hearings get under way as soon as possible, not only to enable Congress to act intelligently upon extension but to guide it in dealing with an expected request from the housing expediter for a further deficiency appropriation for administration of the existing law.

HAILS ICFTU

New York.—President Max Zaritsky of the AFL United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers hailed the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions as a "world leader for democracy and freedom."

Mr. Zaritsky praised the new international labor organization created by the AFL and other labor bodies last December in London in an interview for "Voice of America."

The interview was conducted by Luther Gulick, director of the "Voice of America," and broadcast in many languages around the world.

Mr. Zaritsky recalled the early struggles of the hatters, cap and millinery workers, told of the advances in wages, hours, working conditions and social welfare programs achieved by the union, and stressed the role of free labor in a peaceful world.

In speaking to the workers behind the Iron Curtain, Mr. Zaritsky told them of the early days of the American union movement, and especially stressed the tremendous gains made by free labor organized in a free democratic trade union movement.

GAIN 3-CENT RAISE

Cohoes, N. Y.—Strike threatened by more than 275 AFL United Textile Workers at four mills here and in Green Island has been averted as a result of union acceptance of a 3-cent hourly pay increase. Stephen C. Davis, state mediator, said that Local 446 voted 280 to 87 to accept the offer. The union had sought a 10-cent increase and had authorized a strike when its contract expired. The increase will lift the hourly rate to $1.33.

FAITH HELPS SAYS GREEN

New York.—AFL President William Green says that he finds that facing more than half a century of endeavor to improve the condition of working people in this country, I have found my personal religion a source of strength and comfort.

Mr. Green's message is contained in a series of personal statements compiled by Rev. Dr. Norman Vincent Peale for publication during the Lenten season. The series is copyrighted by Guideposts Associates, Pawling, N. Y.

"In perplexing times like these, I find again and again that I must rely upon God for the best of all of our utmost there will be forces far beyond our ken that are at work for good in the great universe about us. My life has been that in the midst of strife I have found peace. Faith in God, faith in man. Like the bow and the violin, together they make harmony."

Site of Union Industries Show

Philadelphia.—This is the huge Convention Hall—scene of many nationally historic occasions—where one more great event will be staged when Labor Day falls 6 to rise to May 12. More than 500,000 visitors are expected to see the show. The AFL Executive Council, American Federation of Women's Auxiliaries and the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor will meet concurrently with the show.

Doctor Dispels Fog On Insurance Plan

By IRA DEAN McCOY, M.D.

(Second of 2 articles.)

Washington.—The opposition smoke screen has been laid down by special interests to hide the public mind from what National Health Insurance is and what it would mean to the doctor and the patient.

Proponents of National Health Insurance cherish the freedom and individuality of the doctor as much as they do their own doctors, doctors, as a group, have contributed to the cause of National Health Insurance is just a matter of paying for medical care.

The only opposition voiced by advocates of National Health Insurance is that, instead of the patient paying when and if he has money available, the doctor and the hospital of his choice would be paid by the insurance system at a fair price and by a method which the doctor had agreed.

Those who support National Health Insurance are keenly aware that our nation has the finest physicians and hospital beds than we need, and these do not need to be built. The demand depends on families' purchasing power to pay the bills—or no bills—in the organization accessible.

Nevertheless it is unrealistic to argue that National Health Insurance would not increase the demand required to train many more doctors and to provide more hospitals. The supply of medical personnel and facilities, even supported by health insurance, the money to pay for them is available, will not demand depends on families' purchasing power to pay the bills—or no bills—in the organization accessible.

Opponents claim that National Health Insurance is unrealistic to argue that National Health Insurance would not increase the demand required to train many more doctors and to provide more hospitals. The supply of medical personnel and facilities, even supported by health insurance, the money to pay for them is available, will not demand depends on families' purchasing power to pay the bills—or no bills—in the organization accessible.

The first answer to this objection is that the people needs to spend more for health. Too many of us have neglected our health too long. Moreover, a large part of the expenditures under National Health Insurance would not be new or added expenditures. It would be expenditures in direct payments for medical care by those who are distributed benefits under the plan in small regular payments to cover the whole population the costs of sickness—ordinarily considered catastrophic costs, it is worth noting that expenses of voluntary insurance plans cover 65 percent or more in comparison with the premiums received. An important part of these administrative expenses are for selling and retaining individual members, a task that would be eliminated by the distribution of benefits through insurance.

Many other costs would also be eliminated. Duplication of facilities is one. It might at this time be interesting to know that Blue Cross plans of Michigan has approximately 1,- 000,000 more subscribers hospitalized as they choose to call the people who have Blue Cross cards.

From January 1 until June 30, 1949, the Blue Cross of Michigan paid 15,- 000 separate claims for hospitalization. Some interesting items of expense: 4,000 claims paid in salaries and $47,547.09 was paid out in travel and subsistence expenses and $72,762.45 was paid out in "sundry" expenses (of which no explanation is given).

By these few figures I have given, it is easy to see that the cost of administrative costs of the Michigan Blue Cross plan would be about 10 percent to the amount of money collected—a figure published. This plan is, however, a nonprofit corporation! Other plans whose figures are using the Blue Cross learn in their source of information. Commercial companies would be due to the huge expenses I have already cited.

As a result of the very cunning, insidious, and extremely expensive propaganda campaign carried on by the medical lobby, the American Medical Association and its National Physicians Committee, most people would not like it, doctors, or nearly all, unqualifiedly follow the AMA "party line" in opposition to National Health Insurance.

The dictatorial, undemocratic rule of the AMA'a House of Delegates imposes its policies practically by fiat on a hapless and helpless membership. Serious disagreement by an individual with the policies laid down by the House of Delegates or by his local medical society may result in unpleasant economic and professional consequences for that doctor. Few doctors dare risk these consequences.

But opposition to AMA reaction from grassroots sources has manifested itself in several organizations of medical men in favor of National Health Insurance and who say so openly. The Committee of Physicians for the Improvement of Medical Care, the Physician's Forum, and the Committee for the Nation's Health, composed of both laymen and doctors—are becoming increasingly vocal in their support of the entrenched leaders of the AMA.

The American Medical Association has been spun-feeding the American people a terrific campaign of propaganda against National Health Insurance, but I can state the fact that I myself not as well as anyone just what it is and what it will mean to me.

1. It would make available to you and all other employed and self-employed persons (with few exceptions) all the care you need from physicians, both family doctors and specialists, hospitals, laboratory and X-ray services, unusually expensive medicines, expensive appliances, and dental care and home nursing to a limited extent.

2. It would also cover the dependent members of your family.

3. You would be free to choose your own doctor, hospital, etc., and change your selection. Actually, however, individuals will have a much greater freedom of choice than they have now, because the payment of health insurance would help assure a large supply of physicians in many areas where there are not now enough doctors, and because the prepayment plan would enable millions who cannot now afford to have the services of a doctor of their choice for the first time.

4. Your doctor's professional freedom would be fully protected. He would not become a government employee. He would remain a practitioner, free to accept or reject patients. He would continue to be free to participate in, or stay outside the insurance plan. He would be paid for the insurance funds in amounts and methods which he and his colleagues themselves would negotiate.

5. It would cost you 2 percent of your earnings (up to $4,800 of income) and your employer would pay an equal amount. You would pay 3 percent (up to $4,800) if you are self-employed.

6. If you are a member of a voluntary health insurance plan that meets minimum standards, this plan could continue to provide you with services in lieu of benefits otherwise paid for from the national insurance fund.

7. Health insurance would not be run from Washington. It would be administered in the whole state as you adopted by each state.

In view of the above-mentioned facts it is almost impossible to understand the opposition of the American Medical Association's bitter opposition especially when the AMA House of Delegates in 1916 petitioned the Congress to spread a program of health insurance over all the American people. This petition was recalled or withdrawn in 1920.

Many of us fear the threat of Communism is to increase the opportunities of the ordinary individual! America is a rich country and rich enough that we should have no shame, we should have equal opportunity. Insular at public school education is unrealistic in this country for all our children whatever their color or creed. All children have a right to expect the country of ours to healthy and sound physically and mentally as the nation can give it to them.

These are not visionary ideals. We can and must find a way for their fulfillment. We cannot permit the reactionaries to help a child."

FUND CHILD LABOR

Washington.—About 150 children in 8 Alabama counties were found picking cotton in violation of the child labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act during the 1949 cotton-picking season. Many of these boys and girls were returned to their classrooms as a result of a series of investigations by the U. S. Labor Department's Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Division.

Come to the Show! In Philly, May 6

Washington.—Come to the show! That's the invitation to the labor industries show.

"You'll get a big kick out of it," the AFL Union Label Trades Department says.

The show opens May 6 and runs through May 12 in Philly's Big Convention Hall—scene of great political conventions and numerous exhibitions, displays and sports.

There will be scores of brilliant displays of high-quality union-made products and exciting demonstrations by AFL craftsmen.

Music, contests, entertainment, a parade of U. S. Armed Forces equipment are other features.

Calls For Halt In Stone Throwing At Trolley Cars

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent of AFL News Service

Chicago.—An appeal to the people of Chicago to stop their children from throwing rocks at street car windows was published in the Union Leader, official weekly paper of the AFL transit employes' unions.

Division 241 and 308 of the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes represent motormen, conductors, bus operators, station agents, cashiers, buses and elevated trains operated by the Chicago Transit Authority.

Since the CTA, a municipal corporation, took over the transportation properties formerly operated by private companies, there have been several increases in fare. Conductors and motormen, who have been the principal objects of public wrath.

In the last few weeks, the daily press has complained that conductors and motormen have been slow to match Lord Chesterfield in standards of politeness on the open platform of a crowded street car when the temperature is around zero.

During a single year, more than 700 citizens were thrown as CTA vehicles. The fun wasn't exactly harmless. There were 580 injuries.

"Those statistics don't tell the whole story," says the Union Leader in one article. "They don't tell about the motorman who left his home with his left eye, or about the conductor from whose pocket the pickpocket drew a heavy piece of iron tossed by an irresponsible youth.

"If you see anyone, juvenile or not, throwing stones at a CTA vehicle, whether or not it is carrying a car, it is your duty to grab the moron by the scruff of the neck and the seat of the pants and deal with him as he should be dealt with. If you don't you are a moron.

"And if the culprit happens to be one of your own children, treat him severe, and his father is righteously indignant, file a complaint with the Union Leader office, and the editor will be happy to turn him in the way he will without a snowball to impress him with the fact that throwing dangerous objects at moving vehicles does not come under the category of the AFL Weekly News Service.

Are you listening to Frank Edwards?

FOR FUND HIKE

Washington.—New appropriations tentatively approved for the Labor Department reflect the government's growing concern over unemployment.

The House Appropriations Committee recommended that the department's appropriation be increased during fiscal year solely for unemployment compensation grants to the states. This amount is $9,500,000 below the department's original request but still $10,000,000 above the amount granted for the year now nearing its close.

"This large increase has been approved," the committee said, "in recognition of the need for more funds to enable states to process a higher level of unemployment claims and attendant to the prevailing higher level of unemployment."

AFL Won 1,924 Polls In Year

Beat CIO, Unaffiliated Unions by Better Than 2 to 1

Washington.—The American Federation of Labor won 1,924 National Labor Relations Board collective bargaining elections in 1949.

These figures were made public for the first time by Harry O'Reilly, AFL director of organization as a number of the 290 AFL-affiliated unions rose to glory in the annual campaign for 1,000,000 new members during the Samuel Gompers Memorial Organizing Drive.

The AFL was victorious in 38 percent of the 5,071 elections conducted during the year. The total victories were more than twice as many as those of the CIO and unaffiliated unions.

AFL triumphs exceeded the combined total of CIO and unaffiliated unions.

The AFL led the field in every single industrial group by the labor board in collective bargaining elections. AFL unions had the most petitions, took part in the most elections, won more than CIO and unaffiliated competed in the same plant, and in the most bargaining units.

On this successful performance, the AFL planned to add 1,000,000 greater year in 1950 to honor the founder and first president, Samuel Gompers, on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

The 1,418 elections in which "no union" choices prevailed in the votes will be the special target of AFL organizers. The Taft-Hartley law's many restrictions cost most of these polls the victories that would have given the number of elections where "no union" won.

AFL President William Green, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, Mr. O'Reilly and Joseph Keenan, director of Labor's League for Political Education, were scheduled discussion the organizers' sessions.

The conference was called by President Green for "the formulation of plans and policies to be used for the purpose the organization of 1,000,000 new members in 1950."

President Hails AFL Union Show

Washington.—President Truman endorsed the principle of the AFL Union Industries Show in a message to Matthew Woll, director of the unique labor-management exhibition to be held May 6-13 at Convention Hall in Philadelphia, the President said:

"One of the finest demonstrations of the value of teamwork between management and labor is the Union Industries Show which is provided at the Union Industries Show sponsored by the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor.

"The label is a hallmark by which the consumer may know that the article he is buying has been produced under decent working conditions. It is an emblem to attest the harmony between the workers and industry.

"Each year the list of industries cooperating with this fine enterprise on the part of the American Federation of Labor is impressive evidence of the essential spirit of progress that dominates the American economy. I am interested to see that the list of participating industries this year represents so many fields of American production.

"Please express to all who are taking part this year my good wishes for the success of the exhibition and my hope that it will attract the thousands who will visit the show will find in it a good object lesson in democracy, and tangible evidence of the spirit and progress that is fostered in our free enterprise system."

Both Parties Try To Purge Liberals

Can't Take Away Hiring Hall, Says Harry to Senate

Washington.—Said Harry Lundeberg to Senators Taft and Donnell: "As far as the hiring hall is concerned, you can never take it away from the seamen.

"Take it out of the contract, we'll still have it. They won't go any place else. Have you ever been in jail, Senator?"

The president of the AFL Seafarers International Union was more than a bit peeved by the latest assaults on the Taft-Hartley law and the anti-labor Sen. Forrest C. Donnell of Missouri in a Senate committee hearing on proposals to amend the Taft-Hartley law to outlaw hiring halls.

The AFL favors legalizing hiring halls by collective bargain, but the Taft-Hartley law, as advocated by conservatives, would outlaw the arrangement.

Said Mr. Lundeberg was on the stand, Federal Mediation Director Cyrus S. Ching appeared before the same committee in a letter that "the general public would favor the abolition of union hiring halls now in operation." Such legislation, Ching declared would be a most serious disturbing factor in the labor-management relations of the industry."

Mr. Ching predicted widespread strike votes if the National Labor Relations Board seeks contempt citations against unions that the hiring halls are illegal under the Taft-Hartley law. The Supreme Court has upheld the order.

Mr. Lundeberg said that his union's Pacific Coast contract provides for hiring on a seniority basis.

"It just happens, every man with seniority is a member of the union," he observed.

"This provision must be legal because it was okayed it," he said directly to Senator Taft, who presided over the subcommittee with the Senator in California in 1947, and several times during the hearings on that occasion, saying that the Senator had agreed with him that the union preference on a basis of seniority was legal under the Taft-Hartley law.

"In fact, somebody called it the Taft-Lundeberg clause," the witness added. The Senator joined in the laughter.

The tall, Norway-born leader who has fought his way from the docks, appeared in his customary garb of a blue denim shirt and blue collar. And he had with him the inevitable cap which he twirled nervously.

Mr. Lundeberg conceded that the use of the preferential clause "could be closed shop.

Senator Donnell asked whether ship operators could reject a man referred to them by the hiring hall, even if there was a closed shop.

Mr. Lundeberg replied that employers who were previously employed.

When ordinary seamen are not available through the hiring hall, the contract provides preference for graduates of the Seafarers' Harry Lundeberg School, he said. The school is financed by the union.

Senator Donnell asked if he knew of any other "jobs" than ship work organized by the union.

"No, I don't," Mr. Lundeberg replied.

Senator Taft remarked, at this point, that railroads hire on a seniority basis.

The Odious asked if anybody had used the Seafarers Union for discriminating under the hiring clause.

"No, except a half-dozen Communists and Trotskyites we expelled for subversive tactics. They are using us," the union witness replied.

Can't Take Away Hiring Hall, Says Harry to Senate

Washington.—Reactionaries in both Democratic and Republican parties are attempting to purge liberal senators in primary elections.

That charge is made by Joseph Keenan, director of the AFL Labor's League for Political Education, in an exclusive interview.

"Every liberal senator whether he be a Democrat or Republican," is facing the opposition from the same type of political interlopers, Mr. Keenan said.

"There is no attempt of purge now going on in these primary elections by both the Democratic side and on the Republican side to remove liberals from office and to substitute more conservative candidates."

Mr. Keenan said targets of the purge are Democratic Senators Claude Pepper, Florida; Olin D. Johnston, South Carolina; Frank P. Graham, North Carolina; Lister Hill, Alabama, and Russell B. Long, Louisiana; Republican Senators Charles W. Tobey, New Hampshire; George D. Aiken, Vermont, and Wayne Morse, Oregon.

"These are the only thing wrong with these senators is that they supported the people and labor's legislation," Mr. Keenan said.

Mr. Keenan said these important primaries will be held in the South in May and July and that the Republican will be the liberals.

"Here and now we've got to carry the fight to the reactionaries," Keenan charges of rewarding our friends and punishing our enemies," he said.

Beck Says Hawaii Unions Will Grow

Honolulu, Hawaii.—Dave Beck, executive vice president of the AFL Teamsters Union, said that the labor movement in Hawaii has "but all of its future before it and the ground has been well furrowed."

Mr. Beck made several speeches here during a visit to the Teamsters locals and got acquainted with the membership of the AFL unions.

"I am certain," he said in a statement, "that the people of Hawaii, having the minds of those who are set against us now into a fighting frenzy from that only by the fullest cooperation of capital, labor and the public interest of the islands, prosper into complete success and a happy future for the people of this garden spot."

Speaking to the Rotary Club, he boosted for Hawaii and Alaska, and called upon capital to help develop the islands as a bulwark of democracy against the spread of communism. He said he was disappointed that labor had not been able to offer military installations out in strength.

Mr. Beck was accompanied to the islands by Frank Brewster, Seattle; Wash.; Elmer Mann, Portland, Ore.; and Ralph Williams, Albany, public relations officer, and Willard Kennedy, Portland, Ore., secretary-treasurer of Local 206.

GRANT INSURANCE

Chicago.—Stewart-Warner Corporation signed a contract with Local 1031 of the AFL International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, covering 2,500 employes. The agreement provides no wage increases, but includes a comprehensive insurance plan paid for by the company and for 2 weeks' vacation for employes with 15 or more years of service.

Samuel Gompers said:

"I believe that as time goes on the wage-earners will continue to become larger sharers per dollar of the wealth produced. I have no fear as to the future of organized labor.

Remember Gompers. Buy stamps!

LAUNCH SOUTHERN DRIVE

Atlanta, Ga.—International Chemical Workers have launched a stiffened organizing campaign in the southern territory and will concentrate on the unorganized workers in mixed-fiber chemical plants, Vice President Jerome Jacobson announced here. Jacobson and Ed K. Moffett are in charge of the campaign, which will have headquarters offices in Atlanta and Houston, Texas.

GRANT INSURANCE

Chicago.—Stewart-Warner Corporation signed a contract with Local 1031 of the AFL International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, covering 2,500 employes. The agreement provides no wage increases, but includes a comprehensive insurance plan paid for by the company and for 2 weeks' vacation for employes with 15 or more years of service.

See AFL World Role In Gompers Spirit

New York.—"The highly constructive, long-range program of the American labor leadership in strengthening the spirit of the unions in western Europe, in their struggle to avoid being overrun by the Communists, would "have been impossible without the Gompers tradition," Mr. Selig Perlman declares in the Reporter magazine.

The article, entitled "What Gompers Stood For," is filled particularly with Samuel Gompers' democratic faith in the possibilities of free organized labor, but stresses his work, as president of the AFL, in the field of international relations.

"In no other respect is Gompers more entitled to contemporary recognition than in his relation to Gompers, the immigrant from London, establishing himself as the leading European labor, and he showed equal concern for workers in Latin America.

Even Gompers' detractors will not dispute the fact that in Mexico, where President Wilson's high regard for him was largely based on the creation of the International Labor Office. The spirit of Gompers continues to be implanted in the federation continues unabated.

Dr. Perlman suggests that the recent formation of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions is a continuation of Gompers' work and ideas. In future years, he says, the struggle would be "the beginning of the recognition of Gompers as the leading international leader of American labor but of free labor throughout the world.

NEEDS 100,000 WORKERS

Brampton, Ont.—Francis M. Forde, Australian Minister of Immigration in Canada, said that Australia, now in the midst of a period of prosperity, has jobs for an additional 100,000 workers.

Who Ignored What?

Washington.—Marquis Childs, syndicated columnist, complains that "large segments are ignored that, "the nation has turned a deaf ear to the Truman Administration."

He says that a United Nations report on national and international income "has been almost totally ignored by the press."

For the record, the AFL News Service published a special summary on this subject on January 17, 1950, but found little interest in New York correspondent, which began "one of the most significant documents to come out of the United Nations since its creation has just been published."

Hutchman's story was widely used by AFL newspapers serving the AFL Weekly News Service.

The report, Mr. Childs, has not been ignored.

But too little is being done to make it work against a world depression which already has a toehold in mounting unemployment around the globe.